

yet all to no purpose, while the North was making every lawful effort to have that black spot erased from our national escutcheon, the South was getting ready to cross Mason and Dixon line and plant slavery on new soil and not until God in great mercy said, "Let my people go." Was any great good done toward the freedom of the black man? And so I ask my brother, When will the demand cease for the saloon? More than eighteen hundred years have elapsed since a risen and glorified Savior was preached; and to-day we see much the same condition with us as was at that day—all kinds of sin not only indulged in, but new plans are studied out whereby to gratify the carnal tastes and lusts and the Bible true again. "God created man upright but he has sought out many inventions." The writer tells us he has but little faith in legislation. And then asks the question, Do the laws against murder prevent killing? I answer no. But allow me to ask one question, Would the writer be willing to become a resident of a State where the law of that State did not make murder a penal offense punishable by death, and have the above said State licensed the liquor traffic? I hope not.

I ask again, When will public sentiment be educated up to the point of keeping holy the Lord's day; when the physician has given the remedy that seems to be well indicated and it fails to cure the patient and when he saw there was no hope of relieving or curing his patient, what would you think of such a medical attendant if he persistently refused to give another remedy that had succeeded in curing many such cases? Now in this case we have tried moral suasion, we have had a father Matthew, a John B. Goff and F. Murphy; and with them many thousand helpers, all of whom have done much good. We had of societies, the Washingtonians, Good Templars, Temple of Honor, Sons of Temperance, Rechabites, the Crusades and the W. C. T. U., whose white ribbon is flung to the breeze under every flag where there is a government, and it now reaches over into dark Africa and where the ribbon is worn the earnest pleading prayer has gone with it, not the prayer of the mong grabber, the petty Politician, but the pure heart felt and heart reaching prayer, a prayer that is heard by the God of the oppressed and sooner or later those prayers will be answered to the consternation and everlasting shame of those who would sell the Master or cut off the ear of the servant.

Here then we have a patient that is stricken down by a deadly malady wound about by the great anaconda. I mean the politicians pet serpent whereby he gains

most of his political preferences. His political sting is found in almost every home and hamlet. After considering and giving the most favorable opinion of all the remedies that have been used in the case we are led to say our prognosis is doubtful. This upas tree has been clipped and scored and made in part branchless by prohibition restrictions in our license laws. We had late and early hours for closing low and high priced license and we have the opinion of our best jurists, telling us that *eight tenths* of the crimes are caused by the liquor traffic, and yet the tree is growing and spreading as it never did before causing death physical and eternal, to 60,000 or 70,000 persons yearly and for every gap made in the ranks by the death of the husband and father it is filled by one of his sons stepping up to take his place.

As there is \$1,200,000,000 in the business annually to be divided among about 250,000 men, we need the work of the Christian minister in the pulpit, and at the ballot box we need to exercise that moral courage that becomes ambassadors of the cross. If the watchmen give an uncertain sound their flock will not be prepared for a war of extermination of the great upas tree. There are many, too many, preachers who are closing their eyes as they approach the voting place, and shouting all the while, "great is Diana of the Ephesians." We need a unifying of all total abstinence societies in order that we may present a solid phalanx against this rum fiend. We need more than prayers. We have need to get up off our knees and fight. God asks us to help him. The war of the rebellion was fought at home as well as in the field. Loyal Christian mothers prayed at home, while sons and husbands went to the front. The loyal women said in *deeds* if not in words, as did the Spartan mothers, go and come home bearing your shield or come being carried upon it. We are prepared for this or are we saying as did Naaman, II Kings 18. Praying for the removal of this leprous spot, and yet asking pardon for voting for the God, Bachus Hezekiah. Your praying and crying is all right but you must apply the *fig* to the *boil*.

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"SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES."

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The above text can be found in John 5: 39. And truly this scriptural injunction is ignored more by Christian professors, than any other command in the New Testament. If people would study the Scriptures without prejudice, partiality and selfishness, and with an earnest desire to

learn and obey its requirements, they no doubt would understand the same, just as the brethren do.

I became more convinced of this on last Sabbath than ever before. It having lately come to my ears that a religious sect is operating in St. Louis, whose faith and practice is much like that of the brethren. I determined to investigate the same, and after learning where they expected to hold their services last Sabbath, I met with them, and found a small band assembled for worship. They hold house to house services, and having no ordained ministers, one of them leads the meeting by reading a portion of Scripture, also offers a prayer, after which he exhorts from the Scriptures read, after he has concluded his remarks, others are given an opportunity to speak upon some scriptural topic. I soon learned that they believe in baptism by immersion, in feet washing, the holy kiss, and the anointing of the sick. In fact while listening to them as they were interpreting the Scriptures, I was made to feel that surely these must be brethren. After three of the leading members had addressed the little flock, they called upon me to say something. I being a stranger to them, they no doubt thought their doctrine a new one to me; I embraced the opportunity. I told them I had preached the same doctrine for 15 years during my lifetime, that I was converted to the same about 30 years ago, which seemed to surprise them. I spoke to them about 30 minutes, during which time I endeavored to present to them the cardinal principles of the faith and practice of the Brethren. I discovered one very peculiar error in their belief, viz, they baptize by immersing the applicant twice only in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and lay on hands with prayer in the name of the Holy Ghost. Thus you see they immerse the applicant twice, the only sect I ever heard of baptizing in that manner. I explained to them the mode of baptism practiced by the Brethren. I read to them from Matt. 28, and commented on same just a little, refraining from making use of the argument, thinking it best to simply sow the seed, and give it an opportunity to sprout and show signs of life. Now these people were formerly members of some of the various religious denominations and became dissatisfied and began searching the Scriptures to know God's requirements and to obey them.

They were not under the guidance and influence of man, but simply truth seekers, and by such a method of investigation, they embraced a faith and practice so much in harmony with the Brethrens faith and practice, for they told me they never heard of such a denomination as